

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DG 06-138

ORDER OF NOTICE

On September 28, 2006, New Hampshire Gas Corporation (NHGC), a public utility providing propane air service to approximately 1,000 customers in Keene, New Hampshire, filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) revisions to its tariff providing for its winter Cost of Gas (COG) rates for the period November 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007.

The proposed COG rate is \$1.4541 per therm, a \$0.0798 per therm increase over the weighted COG rate of \$1.3743 per therm for last winter. NHGC also proposed a \$1.4741 per therm rate for the Fixed Price Option Program.

NHGC further proposed that the deferred revenue surcharge effective November 1, 2006, would be \$0.0546 per therm, a \$0.0058 increase over the deferred revenue surcharge of \$0.0488 per therm in effect during the summer 2006 COG period. *New Hampshire Gas Corporation*, Order No. 24,102, 87 NH PUC 862 (2002) approved NHGC's petition to defer on its books the monthly difference between the amount which would be collected under maximum delivery rates and actual rates, without interest and not to exceed \$200,000. NHGC began recovery of the deferred amount on May 1, 2006, six months after implementation of maximum rates. The deferred revenue will be recovered over a period of 36 months.

As a result of the change in the deferred revenue surcharge and proposed change in the COG rate, a typical residential heating customer's winter bill would be \$2,231, an increase of \$128, or 6.1 percent, greater than last winter's bill.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to the reasonableness of rates and charges pursuant to RSA 378 and more specifically: forecasting of sales, supplier prices and transportation prices, operational issues and reconciliation with prior period costs and revenues.

Pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12 (a)(5), each party has the right to have an attorney represent them at their own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a hearing on NHGC's 2006/2007 winter COG be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 24, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, NHGC shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 6, 2006, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before October 24, 2006; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to NHGC and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 20, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before October 24, 2006; and it is

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this third day of October, 2006.

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.